

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Vu (U.S. Patent 5,632,601).

The Specification has been amended to remove incorrect priority information, while leaving the correct priority chain to the parent case, U.S. Patent 5,898,830, filed Oct. 17, 1996.

By way of this Amendment, all pending claims 1-15 have been removed from this case and replaced with newly presented claims 16-30.

Newly presented claims 16-30 have been crafted to more particularly point out and distinctly claim a virtual private network, which was the general thrust of the original claims 1-15. While Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce to the previous grounds of rejection, Applicants believe that the newly presented claims 16-30 more clearly distinguish over Vu.

Independent claims 16, 21, and 26 now more precisely recite a virtual private network including a set of two private networks, each having a firewall, and a connection between the two networks over a public network. The claims now recite that the connection between the two networks is encrypted. Moreover, the independent claims now recite that the virtual private network also has DNS functionality to facilitate connections between client of the private networks.

The dependent claims now recite that the firewalls of the newly-presented claims may also include multiple virtual hosts, meaning that the firewalls may be multi-homed.

The DNS server may also be embodied in the physical firewall machine. Also, the dependent claims now recite that the firewall may be configured over the public network through the point-and-click interface of a web browser.

Support for the newly-presented claims can be found in Figure 1 and the accompanying description.

It is respectfully submitted that Vu does not teach or suggest a virtual private network as now claimed. It is respectfully requested that the pending case be reconsidered in light of these Remarks and Amendments and moved to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is personally invited to telephone the undersigned at 775-848-5624.

Respectfully submitted,
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